



# The Guardian

VOLUME 38, Issue 5 May 2007

## EXONERATED!

### Officers Cleared in Recent High Profile Complaint

**Seattle Police Department  
Official Statement  
April 9, 2007**

The Seattle Police Department has conducted an extensive investigation into the allegations made against Officers Gregory Neubert and Michael Tietjen. SPD investigators and Command staff have dedicated a substantial number of hours into reviewing all the facts surrounding this complaint.

In working downtown both officers routinely participate in multiple lawful contacts with individuals some of which result in physical arrests and seizure of drugs and/or guns. The officers have turned in thousands of dollars of narcotics and illegal firearms to the evidence section.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Patterson filed a complaint alleging that unnecessary force was used when he was arrested on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. In later interviews, Mr. Patterson claimed that the narcotics that Officers Neubert and Tietjen recovered were not his.

An independent witness describing Mr. Patterson as her “dope dealer,” observed the arrest and stated that officers were restrained in the way that they handled Mr. Patterson. The witness also states that she observed Mr. Patterson with the narcotics that the officers recovered. The witness also told investigators that Mr. Patterson had left her a message asking her to accuse the officers of planting the narcotics.

When Mr. Patterson made his complaint, he referred to a surveillance camera that may have captured his arrest. Investigators recovered the video and notified the King County Prosecutor’s

Office, the City Attorney’s Office and the Office of the US Attorney of the investigation.

Based on the totality of the information in the investigation, the Seattle Police Department has concluded that the allegation of unnecessary force should be exonerated. The claim that officers planted the narcotics on Mr. Patterson is unfounded and has been refuted.

In the course of the internal investigation it was shown that Officers Neubert and Tietjen temporarily detained another suspect on a warrant in a completely unrelated stop. The detained suspect was then released. This detention was not documented as required by the Seattle Police Department’s Policies and Procedures. Both officers have accepted full responsibility for this administrative violation and I will impose disciplinary action.

We have reviewed every individual case that Neubert and Tietjen have been involved in since the beginning of the year, including cases pending prosecution. We have found nothing in our review that would lead to further investigation. If anyone has specific information on any wrongdoing committed by any Seattle Police officer, we encourage them to contact the Office of Professional Accountability to file a complaint. The US Attorney’s Office has also agreed to investigate any allegations of wrongdoing by a department member.

The Seattle Police Department will not apologize for making arrests and seizing narcotics and illegal firearms. These actions are consistent with our mission of preventing crime and protecting the public.

**SPOG Press Release  
April 9, 2007**

The Seattle Police Officers’ Guild commends Chief Gil Kerlikowske for his public statement clearing Officer Gregory Neubert and Officer Michael Tietjen of the malicious and false allegations that questioned the honesty and integrity of these fine officers.

The Seattle Police Officers’ Guild believes that this incident underscores the need for individuals to reserve judgment until allegations are thoroughly investigated. Over 90% of police misconduct allegations are not sustained. Many of those allegations are brought by individuals who are trying to cloud their own criminal actions with false claims. These decorated officers have worked tirelessly to rid the downtown corridor of open-air drug dealing. Law enforcement officers take allegations against their integrity and honesty very seriously. These false allegations from a convicted felon were given an overblown amount of credibility.

The Seattle Police Officers’ Guild maintains a legal defense fund to support officers who are maliciously and falsely accused of wrongdoing. The Guild will review this case as well as any future allegations to evaluate if civil actions should be taken against those who initiate false allegations.

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# The Guardian

**Official publication of the  
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# President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



KUDOS to Chief Kerlikowske!  
Before you think that you mistakenly picked up The Blue Review or that I have overdosed on department issued Kool-Aid let me explain. The Guardian has always been quick to point out mistakes and shortfalls of many in our command ranks and I think it is only fair and balanced to salute them when they do the right thing. Officer Greg Neubert and Officer Mike Tietjen are two of our hardest working officers. Upon direction from their chain of command, these two west precinct 3<sup>rd</sup> watch bicycle officers have been aggressively patrolling the downtown area trying to clean up the open air drug activity that plagues the streets. These two officers routinely make about fifty drug arrests every month! As a result they spend a great deal of time in court. The drug dealers do not like these guys because they are bad for business! So after a routine drug arrest, an EIGHT TIME FELON DRUG DEALER makes a complaint of excessive force to OPA. No big deal as many repeat felons make allegations, especially after talking with their legal counsel. A store mounted camera video surfaces and suddenly this routine complaint is given the importance of Watergate or Rodney King! The honesty of the officers is called into question. The Seattle Times puts the convict's allegation on page 1 with a font size reserved for a declaration of war! Prosecutors start dismissing cases and putting other cases on hold. The defense attorneys and drug dealers are overjoyed! The NAACP joins in with their usual claim that race is involved and they want an outside investigation! The only problem is that the "smoking gun video" shows NOTHING to call into question the honesty of the officers. As a matter of fact the video shows very little, except a lengthy view of Officer Neubert's back! The honesty that should be called into question, by the video, is that of the CONVICTED FELON because it is quite obvious that he was not "beat by the police" as he originally alleged. His booking photo from the night in question is flawless. So what was the big deal? The video shows an uninvolved party who was briefly detained by the officers on an unrelated misdemeanor and he was released without a supervisor screening the incident. This misdemeanor contact was so insignificant the officers were not accurate when describing the details during their first OPA interview. Remember these guys make 50 arrests a month. Many of us can't remember what we had for dinner last night, not to mention an insignificant contact that was over a month old when they were interviewed. Right now I can hear all of our retired officers screaming, "You've got to be kidding me!" I wish I was kidding but this is no laughing matter. Allegations about honesty and integrity can be career ending and should never be taken lightly! Well, I'm pleased to report that Chief Kerlikowske, Deputy Chief Diaz and Deputy Chief Kimerer did not take this lightly. They reviewed the OPA case file with an in depth scrutiny. They went to the scene of the allegation and reviewed countless arrest reports. The Chief promised the officers that because they were so publicly accused, that he would "fast-track" the review process so they would be not be left out there floating for 180 days like may of our officers who get complaints. The other correct decision was that the officers were not "relieved of duty" pending the outcome. The Chief kept his promise and made his decision within 10 days of the front page headlines! What was most impressive was that, with the officer's permission, the Chief publicly announced that the officers were cleared of all allegations related to honesty or integrity! It meant a lot to the officers and to the Guild for the Chief to take such an aggressive stance against this false allegation. It was refreshing to see and it was a job well done! There were many lessons to be learned in this incident. Officers need to remember that in today's society we need to assume that there is a video rolling somewhere and document everything! If people are going to jump to conclusions because you omitted something, WRITE A NOVEL! We should also assume that OPA has a video in every case and they are not required to show it to you before they question you! As always, never go to OPA without your Guild Representative! The other lessons that can be learned are that allegations are not conclusions. People and organizations like the NAACP should wait until allegations are proven before jumping to conclusions. Allegations about honesty and integrity should not be added to a complaint without rock solid evidence. An officer's reputation and career hangs in the balance! I think everyone involved needs to acknowledge that the criminal element and their attorneys misuse the entire OPA system in a scheme to deflect attention away from their criminal behavior. We should not assist them by giving their false allegations credibility and in the process slander the names of hard working officers in the name of "public disclosure." Lastly, the final lesson is that it means so much to officers to have their Chief stand up for them when they are falsely accused!

Last month our nation witnessed the deadliest mass shooting in our history when a crazed gunman killed 32 people at Virginia Tech. 29 other people were injured in this senseless act. As officers we need to recognize that these type incidents can happen anywhere and we need to be prepared! This is a dangerous profession and it is getting more dangerous! The officers at Virginia Tech used the Active Shooter Tactics that we learn at Street Skills. Training can help you survive if you are ever called to respond to such a horrific incident! Let the officers at training know that you appreciate the job that they are doing!

I'm sad to report that there is no real progress in our contract mediation sessions. I was quite optimistic when we scheduled over six sessions in March but the sessions ended without any substantial movement. We will continue to meet with the city and the state mediator and we will let you know of any progress at the SPOG monthly membership meetings. The summer months will mean that many at the table (on both sides) have vacations planned so if the pace does not pick up quickly, I just don't see an agreement happening before fall. The SPOG team is committed to improving the wages, benefits and working conditions of every officer. We will not settle for anything less. If that takes more time, then we are prepared to go the distance!

Finally, on Friday May 4 at 1300 officers will gather at the Law Enforcement Memorial in Olympia to pay our respects to the officers who have been killed in the line of duty. This year, SPD Officer Joselito Barber will be honored and his name will be added to the wall. I would like to call upon all SPD officers, active and retired, to attend this ceremony. Sadly, there are more SPD officers inscribed on the monument than any other agency in the state. Let's honor Officer Barber and his family with an incredible turnout!

As the monument reminds us, "Their duty was to serve. Our duty is to remember."

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# Plain Talk

By Officer Mike Severance, Board Position #5

It's time for some plain talk about things we only discuss amongst ourselves. I will probably be hanged at dawn for what I am going to say, but it needs to be said. With that in mind, I bequeath my golf clubs to Officer Lance Basney in the hope that they will improve his game...fat chance.

We are living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Most of its first decade has come to be called "The Age of Terrorism". I have seen no indications, which would cause me to think that term will change. Is Seattle prepared for a terrorist attack? Not just NO, but HELL NO! Recently, this city has shown that it can't even prepare for a snowstorm or windstorm, both of which brought this city to its knees. Well, a different type of storm is coming.

Upon the occasion of his retirement several years ago, the Special Agent in Charge of the Seattle F.B.I. office stated that Seattle was an easy target for terrorists. He was certainly in a position to know, and little, if anything, has changed. One often repeated tactic of today's terrorist fanatics is the armed takeover of certain types of facilities and the taking of hostages. The experts agree. It is not a question of if, but when this will happen in the United States, and an unprepared easy target is more inviting than a prepared one. It would be morally and criminally negligent for this city to not prepare for the possibility of this type of terrorist incident.

If this type of incident happens in Seattle, rapid intervention will be **imperative** if we are to interrupt the terrorists' timetable. Rapid intervention is that tactical response developed after Columbine, but a terrorist takeover would in no way resemble Columbine. We get to practice this tactic one day a year at Street Skills. Do you think terrorists train only one day a year? SWAT, with its special weapons and

equipment, will not be able to respond fast enough. Rapid intervention will be the responsibility of uniformed patrol officers, and here is where things get interesting. Patrol is woefully understaffed. We are all armed with handguns, which are not equipped with lights or laser sights or any other enhancements. Most of us carry three magazines of ammunition, an ample supply for a normal gun battle. There would be nothing normal about this type of gun battle. There are a limited number of patrol rifle officers dispersed within the 15 patrol shifts at 5 precincts. And because the department, in its wisdom, took all the shotguns out of the patrol cars, there are now a limited number of patrol shotgun officers dispersed within the same 15 patrol shifts. If rapid intervention is needed for such an incident, the mathematics of probability clearly states that it will be a battle pitting uniformed patrol officers, most or all being armed only with handguns and an insufficient amount of ammunition and equipment, against the terrorists armed with automatic weapons, lots of ammunition, and lots of other goodies. That's not what I would call a fair fight, and, under current conditions, it would be a suicide mission. I'm a Seattle resident and taxpayer. I find this level of protection for our citizens to be unacceptable. Do my fellow Seattleites even know this is the level of protection they have?

If we go on such mission, almost all of the brass and all our elected officials will be nowhere near the action unless the City Council chambers are the targets. After many dozens or more of us are killed, the military will be called in to resolve the situation. The military has the staffing, the training, and the weapons to handle something like this. But, by then, there would have been an unimaginable loss of life.

When it is over, the brass and elected officials will say nice things about us. They will show up at our funerals and get their faces on television. They might even give us some medals posthumously. They will point fingers and blame at everybody except themselves. The Chief will fall on his sword and resign. This will temporarily take some heat off the mayor who, like the City Council members in office at the time, will not win another election. And the "Seattle Way" will kick in. There will be special commissions and blue ribbon panels formed to study *ad nauseum* how such a terrible thing could have happened in Seattle. Experts from faraway places will be hired to study the dead terrorists and tell us why they did what they did. It's the same old crap, also known as excuses for inexcusable failure. I have seen this process repeat itself time after time in Seattle for decades. Do you know how SPD finally got a SWAT unit? After many years of pleas and recommendations for a much-needed SWAT unit, all of which were ignored, an avoidable tragedy occurred in the early 80's. Afterwards, our elected officials appointed a blue ribbon panel. The end result was that SPD finally got a SWAT unit.

During my career, and before, countless SPD officers have risked their lives of the sake of the citizens of Seattle. That's part of the job. But none of us signed up to commit deliberate suicide because the people running the show are too dense to see what is coming, prepare for it, and give us the tools to do the job.

To the elected officials and police administrators, who are running the show, please wake up. It's time to finally start earning those big bucks you make including those very big raises and proposed raises. Prove that you can see past the end of your collective nose and that you do not have your heads buried in the sand. At least give us a fighting chance to protect the people of Seattle and do our job. The age of terrorism isn't on its way. It's already here. This city doesn't need another blue ribbon panel **after** another avoidable tragedy. It has been 5 ½ years since 9/11. What do Seattle's patrol officers have today that we didn't have then? Nothing!

The net staffing change for 2007-2008 is a -4. The net staffing change for the last 27 months is +16.

Be safe out there.


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# Justice: Seattle Style

By Detective Steve Smith, Narcotics

On 12-03-06 at 0300 hours, a suspect walked into a 7-11 on Queen Anne. As the suspect stole a handful of candy the alert clerk noticed a handgun stuffed into his pocket. The clerk called 911 and officers arrived moments later. The officers located the suspect in the parking lot trying to enter a parked vehicle. Officers exited their patrol car and immediately gave verbal commands to the suspect. The suspect ignored the verbal commands and reached for his loaded .380 that he had concealed in a jacket pocket. After a brief but violent struggle the officers were forced to taze the suspect. The officers successfully handcuffed the suspect and took him into custody. The officers in this case considered the use of deadly force and had every right in the world to employ it. The suspect is fortunate to be alive. Upon searching the suspect they recovered the stolen candy, the loaded handgun, four small baggies of marijuana, a set of brass knuckles, and over \$2000.00 cash. The suspect was booked into KCJ for five misdemeanors: Theft, Possession of Marijuana, Resisting, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Unlawful Weapon (brass knuckles).

On 12-04-07 the suspect appeared before the honorable Judge Michael Hurtado. The prosecutor recommended that the suspect plead guilty to the two weapons charges along with the theft and she would dismiss the marijuana and resisting charges. She asked for three days of jail and no monetary fine. The suspect

pled guilty to both weapons charges and resisting arrest while the theft and marijuana charges were dismissed. Judge Hurtado sentenced the suspect to the time he had served in KCJ (less than 24 hours). There was no monetary fine imposed nor any other punitive measure taken (restitution, community service, etc). That's it. Credit for time served while waiting to plead guilty and getting two of the five charges dismissed. The extent of the suspect's punishment was getting released from King County Jail. It is my guess that a jaywalker would have at least had to pay some sort of monetary fine.

The above example is a typical outcome for a gun/drug case in Seattle. Whether this case was heard in SMC or King County Superior Court it makes no difference. Criminals on the street are well aware of the fact that they will not be dealt with harshly when arrested in the Seattle/ King County areas. A good case in point is this. One of the busiest open-air drug markets we have in Seattle is located in the shadows the King County Courthouse. While prosecutors and judges are inside releasing people on their own recognizance and handing out suspended sentences the drug dealers are outside carrying on business as usual. Although there is a fear of being arrested by the proactive officers who patrol the area there is absolutely no fear of what occurs once they are booked into KCJ.

# Kilimanjaro “Roof of Africa”

By Donna Bevan-Lee

We arose from light rest at 2200 hours on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It was sleeting and it was cold!

We ate some biscuits and tea, loaded up our packs, exhaled a few butterflies and we were finally off to the summit of Kilimanjaro. We had been hiking up the mountain for five days, starting in Moshi at 3,000 feet. There were six of the eight original climbers remaining. We started out with SPD officers Deb Nicholson, Sue Long, Suzanne Ross, and Vik Mauro, WSP along with our tour guide Sandy and friends Susan, Karen and Donna (leader of the pack).

Our first day was dry, sunny and hot. We learned the words “poly poly,” Swahili for “slow.” This was a very useful term for us for the next seven days. On our second day, we hiked up to 12,480 feet to the Shira Plateau and we experienced our first downpour on this African mountain. Day three began with sunshine but as we moved up to 12, 850 ft we would endure torrential rain, cold temperatures and Sue became afflicted with altitude sickness. It remained cold and wet with periods of sleet and wind for the next two days. The fourth day was a tough climb along the Barranco Wall, a 600-foot rock that was particularly perilous due to the rain. Sue endured this very difficult day with exceptional courage and made it to the Karanga Camp at 13,200 feet. She descended along with Suzanne the next morning on the fifth day.

The six of us, our 16 porters, two cooks and two guides continued up to the Barafu Camp at 14,950 feet on the fifth day. This was a very busy camp filled with excited anticipation for the final ascent to KIBO peak. We arrived at camp in the afternoon, tried to rest, talked, packed, ate and generally anticipated our 2200-hour departure. Up to this point we had all had moments of exhilaration, self-doubt, surprise and wonderment at the beauty and magnificence of this mighty mountain. We met a man who was celebrating his 70th birthday on a climb up the mountain. We were celebrating Deb's 50th birthday; Happy Birthday Deb!!! What a way to explode into your next half century.

As we began our poly poly ascent up the final leg of our climb, it began to snow; a lot of snow. We knew that there was a full moon but we did not see it...not even that near to it! The snow accumulated and as we and other climbers followed the steep trail upward, it iced up. We had to dig way down deep that night. There were few words spoken and no one dared to speak of the peril of that night. We had decided two years ago that we would climb this mountain in celebration of our friend's birthday and of ourselves...all of us over 40 and three of us over 50 years old. Our determination would get us to the top.

As sunrise began to smile upon us, the clouds began to part and we would see the amazing height that we had come. The ground was pink and soft with silence surrounding us. We did let our a few whoops when the sun rose and we felt quite amazed and happy with ourselves. Then, as only a mountain can, we looked up and saw that we had quite a ways to go...a bit disheartening I must say. On we went, silently and with sheer determination. At this point, there were only two of us who were not afflicted with altitude sickness symptoms, including a vice-like headache, nausea, confusion and breathing issues. We reached the crater rim, Stella Point, and had one hour to go. Our wonderful guides encouraged the altitude weary climbers to push on even though there were obvious altitude problems. We all continued. I went up alone, not being bothered by the altitude, to welcome the rest of the groups as they arrived one by one. I truly felt honor and love for all...such amazingly strong and powerful women.

We had arrived at the roof of Africa and with the bright sun shining, we could see forever! We viewed the beautiful Mawenzi Peak. The crater's ice walls and magnificent glaciers were bright and glorious. They shimmered and glistened in the thin air. The temperature was cold but the air, though thin, was crisp and clean. We were at 19,340 feet!!! We had climbed up 4,000 feet in the heavy snow. We were rewarded!

We took photographs, dumped some troubles into the metal trouble-dumper atop the mountain and began our descent. We hiked back to Barafu Camp, rested, ate and packed up for our descent to Millenium Camp, another 4 - 5 hours away. We reached Millenium Camp at about 1700 hours, and celebrated with a Coca Cola, then ate and crashed!!!

We were up the next morning and after breakfast; we bid farewell and great thanks to our porters and cooks. We then descended another 4 - 5 hours to our starting point at Moshi, 3,000 feet. We signed the register, picked up our certificates, paid a grateful farewell to our guides and rode back to our rooms at the coffee plantation. We were silent for the 2-hour ride...deep in our thoughts of the adventure that we had shared. I know that for me, I was humbled by the strength and fortitude of the women there. We had dug deep inside of ourselves while we integrated this amazing experience and watched the mountain fade as we drove away.

We had one night of rest and then we were off for the next half of our adventure...Safari in the Serengeti!

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# Know Your Audience

## By Sergeant Roger Dixon, SPOG Vice President

When training is applicable and relevant to your job you get it. When training does not match the job, you question the very reason for spending valuable time performing what is often considered a regrettable waste of time and resources.

Like many others I have had my share of training that was completely off the mark. It did not fit the job demands and certainly missed the mark with the audience. This was not the case with Street Skills 2007. The 4-day block was structured to address a number of dynamics officers do and may face during their careers. Academic classroom sessions rarely occurred, leaving a majority of time dedicated to field exercises and drills.

I am the first to say I learned a number of valuable and relevant skills that week. The fact that efforts were made by the Training Section to change the hours to a later start time, especially for Third Watch Officers went a long way toward ensuring I was awake and participatory.

The officers and sergeants who provide and instruct the session deserve accolades for their efforts. Yes, it is their job, but they put extraordinary efforts into making the week worth attending. The trainers are not just from the Training Section. Officers from Patrol, Harbor, K9, and Investigations volunteer to teach their skills outside of their normal work assignment for the greater good. I appreciate the dedication of all the trainers I worked with that week. I know I am a better officer for their efforts.

# Own a Piece of Bacon Bowl History

## By Harriet Benjamin, Bacon Bowl Association President

Own a Piece of Bacon Bowl History  
By Harriet Benjamin, President,  
Bacon Bowl Association  
You can own a piece of Bacon Bowl law enforcement history by purchasing an un-framed Bacon Bowl lithograph for \$20.00 plus shipping and handling. Contact your Bacon Bowl board members: Lieutenant William Edwards, Sergeant Pete Verhaar, Detective Everett Edwards, Officer Vic Minor or myself at 206-935-7700 or 206-937-8873.  
Be sure to mark your calendar for an evening of law enforcement boxing and entertainment during the first annual Bacon Bowl Law

Enforcement Boxing Challenge  
Saturday June 2, 2007 at the Emerald Queen Casino. To date 15 Seattle Police employees have signed up to fight members of the Pierce County law enforcement family, with all proceeds from the event going to children’s charities. You might be surprised which of your friends and co-workers will be climbing in the ring! For those that have not signed up and are interested in showcasing their boxing talents, contact **King County Deputy Pat McCurdy at [Patrick.mccurdy@metrokc.gov](mailto:Patrick.mccurdy@metrokc.gov)** for further information.

# Officer of the Month

## By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officers of the Month for May are Officers Brad Hammermaster and John Brooks of the South Precinct. They were nominated by Officer Ben Hughey for their “outstanding police work and dogged determination” to make several felony arrests and recover several firearms.

Officers Hammermaster and Brooks received information that a recently released felon was in possession of an “Uzi” and had threatened an associate of the man he had killed, and subsequently gone to prison for. Officers Hammermaster and Brooks knew the type of vehicle the suspect drove and the plate, so they went looking for him. While in the area of the suspect’s girlfriend’s residence, they saw the suspect and his girlfriend drive by. They stopped the vehicle and arrested the suspect for felony harassment. A search of the vehicle yielded a loaded handgun and extra magazines.

issued, and Officers Hammermaster and Brooks went back to work. They located the suspect’s mother and convinced her that it was in the suspect’s best interest to be arrested by them. The mother gave up the suspect’s location in the West Precinct. Before the mother could call and warn the suspect, Hammer and Brooks had West Patrol officers respond to the suspect’s location and arrest him as he was leaving the building.

Officer Hughey noted in his nomination, “Officer Hammermaster and Brooks’ determined pursuit and follow-through on both cases led to two notorious South End ‘bad guys’ being hopefully locked up for a long time. If it were not for the efforts of these two officers more shootings and a probable homicide would have occurred between the main players.”

Also nominated this month:

Instead of letting the case end with the arrest, Officers Hammermaster and Brooks chose to go further – they obtained written consent from the girlfriend to search her apartment. Inside they recovered 33.3 grams of marijuana, 53.2 grams of crack cocaine, and a Mac-11 ‘Uzi’ style pistol, fixed with a silencer and extended high capacity magazine. Continuing to press on, Officers Hammermaster and Brooks were able to obtain a written confession from the suspect regarding the firearms and drugs. While taking the statement, the suspect claimed that he had the weapons because he had been the victim of a drive-by shooting and he feared for his life.

Officers Hammermaster and Brooks then shifted their investigation to the drive-by shooting. They were able to identify the suspect and actively looked for the suspect until one night, during a knock & talk, the suspect was located and arrested. Again, using their charm Hammer and Brooks received a signed, written consent from their suspect to search his residence. The search found a pistol grip shotgun and a pistol with extra magazines hidden in the house. The suspect, a convicted felon, later gave a signed confession to Officer Brooks about being the owner of the firearms.

Both suspects were booked on the appropriate charges, but for some reason, the original suspect was released from jail after a few days. A one million dollar warrant was

· Officer John Bundy of the Traffic Unit was nominated by Sergeant Robert Benson (and others) for his response to a gunpoint carjacking in the North Precinct. Officer Bundy quickly found the vehicle and pursued the vehicle across the Aurora Bridge and into the West Precinct. As the suspect took a turn on an exit ramp, Officer Bundy was able to bring this pursuit to an end. The suspect was arrested and during the search a handgun and a knife were recovered. The suspect ended up being a pattern robber who had robbed four banks and at least two commercial establishments in the past few weeks.

· On March 9<sup>th</sup> there was an industrial accident in the Southwest Precinct where a trench collapsed and trapped a man under tons of dirt and debris. This rescue operation included the following actions by our officers: digging by hand and then shovel in an attempt to get to the vehicle, rerouting traffic around the scene, crowd control, language translation, controlling a staging area, being a family liaison and escorting, cranes through rush hour traffic. Sergeant Jim Arata (who should also be recognized) nominated the entire trench collapse team of Officers Willie Askew, Dave Emery, Bruce Wind, Steve Berg, Domingo Ortiz, Bryan Clenna, Phil Reese, Charlie Villigracia, Gregg Traver, Mike Torres, Steve Vanarnam, Ron Mazziotti, Michael Cross and Megan Bruneau, as well as Sergeants Kevin Mason and Steve Ameden, and Lieutenant Norm James.

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“This is Your Life” Surprise Party for  
Officer Wes Ferris of the North Precinct  
Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 @ 1930 hours  
Greenwood Boys and Girls Club  
8635 Fremont Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98103

There will be a catered meal, door prizes and chances to tell stories about Wes!  
Please plan to attend and make this a memorable evening for Wes!  
Please RSVP NLT April 30<sup>th</sup> to Ruthie Ferris at 206-714-9510 if you are planning to attend!



# History Corner

By *The Guardian Staff*

This is a reprint from the May 1983 *Guardian* entitled “My Turn” by Dick Rovig.

*ARTICLE V – Hours of Work and Overtime*  
*Section 7. During the term of this agreement of a joint committee shall be established upon written request of the Guild or the employer to explore the pros and cons of innovative shifts.*

The collective bargaining agreement between the Guild and the City of Seattle is quite specific on the hours and number of days in a row a police officer can work without being compensated for overtime. We all work an eight hour day. Those on a five day work week work 40 hours; those in Patrol work a six day 48 hour work, adjusted to provide 104 days off a year. In a nutshell that’s about it in regard to our hours.

Of course, such limited language precludes the implementation of any shifts other than the standard five eight hour days or six eight hour days with the appropriate days off in between. A couple of years ago the Guild attempted to get the city to try a shift/hour situation which was outside the boundaries of contract stipulations. We were advised to negotiate it. Ergo, the above language in the new agreement. It was not what we wanted originally, but at least we have our employers talking about innovative shifts.

We have met on the issue, but because of the press of negotiations have not come to any agreement at all at this time. We have found there is some confusion amongst our members

about which new innovation we are discussing. I will try to clear up that confusion.

**4/10s**  
The five day a week personnel seem to be most interested in the traditional 4/10 plan, ten hours a day, four days a week with either Friday or Monday off coupled with Saturday and Sunday. A petition from Detective units has been received in this office indicating a great majority would like to try this schedule. Applying 4/10s to Patrol operations has been resisted by most police managers because of equipment provision problems. (More cars have to be purchased, for instance).

**4/12s**  
This plan, which calls for four 12 hour days followed by four days off has been in effect in the Everett Police Department Patrol Division for a few years and is very successful in that jurisdiction. The officers under that system to whom I have spoken are enthusiastic about the shift, as is the Department I understand. 4/12s, as a matter of fact, is the reason we negotiated the innovative shifts clause. A couple of years ago North Station and Harbor Patrol units indicated they would like to try a 4//12 shift. It was at that time, management indicated we should negotiate the issue. Interest seems to have waned at the North Station, but Harbor still has advised they would like to try it.

**4/2-4/4**  
This variation of the 4/10 was suggested by the Canine Unit. This provides a rotating 4/10 plan for units which must provide seven days a week coverage. Underthis system

officers work a ten hour day for four days and then have two off, followed by a four day week and four days off. As these officers have their own cars assigned to them it answers the equipment problem. Further it provides rotating days off for personnel under the plan. If equipment provision problems could be ironed out, 4/2-4/4 might be a good plan for patrol.

**5/2-5/3**  
This shift schedule is presently in use in the King County Police Patrol Division. Officers on that department work five eight hour days and have two off. Thn they work five eight hour days with three days off. With this schedule County officers have from 120 to 123 days off a year. Where do they make up the slack from the tradition 104 furlough days? For one, they do not get worked holidays off at a later time (Premium Holidays are still compensated at time and a half), thus gaining 11 days. Where do they get the rest of the days? They work about 10 to 15 minutes longer a day, providing longer roll call training. Under this schedule officers have 24 to 25 three furlough day periods a year and 11 Saturdays coupled with Sundays off. King County officers are very satisfied with this schedule.

Now, it must be said, if we prevail and Seattle Police Administration goes for any of these plans or any other innovative shifts for that matter, at first they will be implemented on an experimental basis. That is, in certain small units whieh elect to try the experiment for a predetermined period of time.

Most Detectives seem to prefer 4/10s as, for the most part, it fits their traditional five day week. As we said, at first, any agreement reached would be tried on an experimental basis which would be rather simple in small units which work only an eight hour day. In Patrol, the matter becomes much more complicated. There, we would have to have at least a whole watch, if not a complete precinct agree to experiment with an innovative shift. Thus far, we have not found six patrol officers who can agree on a particular shift schedule, much less a precinct. To be quite frank, I am not sure Patrol is not all that dissatisfied with their present shifts were it not for that dimmable PCam.

Anyway, we are writing this just to clear the air on what we are trying to do with Article V, Section 7 and explain as best we can, the alternatives we are looking at. Certainly there are other alternatives. Renton Patrol, for instance, works a 10 on, five day off schedule, I understand. We are checking on this.

What we would like from you, particularly the Patrol Officers, is a consensus if possible, on what shifts they might like if not the present ones. Drop us a line and let us know your feelings in this regard. We would also like to hear of other innovationsof which we might not be aware.

The bottom line, at least to us is, no unit will be forced to work an experimental shift such as outlined above, unless the personnel in that unit are unanimously in favor of trying it.



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## Is There a Problem Officer?

By Officer Steve Pomper, East Precinct

I’m happy to announce that by the time you read this column, a book I wrote, “Behind the Gilded Badge: Exposing the Secret Lives of…” Oh wait a minute; that’s not the one. By the time you read this, my book “Is There a Problem, Officer?” will be hitting bookstore shelves. As my brother and sister police officers, I thought I’d give you a little peek into the process of getting my book from my pen into reader’s hands.

As you all know by now, through my *Guardian* articles, (either to your pleasure, chagrin, or perhaps indifference) I enjoy writing. It’s a passion—actually a compulsion—I’ve had since I was very young and one that has only increased over the years. I’ve also been fascinated at how many drivers, many, normally decent citizens, who, when stopped for traffic violations, behave in utter opposition to getting the warning they’d presumably prefer over a citation.

I thought about my, and other officer’s, experiences with this behavior and realized too many people haven’t a clue as to all that comprises a police officer’s daily job and therefore fail to treat officers with the respect they deserve. I saw this ignorance causing misunderstandings and at times compromising officer safety. I wondered how to bridge the gap and perhaps improve the relationship.

Combining my love of writing with my desire to improve driver understanding and officer safety, I first wrote an article addressing this phenomenon, primarily targeting motorcyclists. My article appeared as a feature in *American Iron Magazine* in March, 2005. The article was well received and I began to consider a book-length piece that would benefit all drivers.

I finished the manuscript and I began a search for an agent in December ‘05. I was surprised by the amount of interest. In January of 2006, despite interest from agencies in New York and Hollywood, I signed a contract with an agency right here in the Pacific Northwest. By March my agent sold my book, and in April I signed a book deal with The Lyons Press, (an imprint of Globe-Pequot) Guilford, CT. The following months were filled with editing, amending,

writing additional chapters as requested, and completing the tennis match that was the back and forth with the manuscript between my editor and me.

To illustrate my points I use humorous and poignant, anecdotes and vignettes based on my experiences and on those related to me by other officers. By addressing officer-driver interactions that occur during traffic stops, which are among the most common interactions between an officer and a normally law-abiding citizen, my hope is that police-citizen interactions in general and officer safety will benefit.

We as officers expect certain behaviors from the people we deal with. We want their understanding, their compliance—according to our expectations—and we want to receive the benefit of the doubt when issues are cloudy. Maybe we think how people should behave is common sense, and maybe it should be, but when ego and nerves kick in, people act in weird ways, especially when they flip through their mental roll-o-dex and find nothing useful there. How to behave on a traffic stop should be common sense, but people act in some strange ways that probably embarrasses them later when they’re evaluating the ticket they just talked themselves into. That’s why I filled the book with several, *Oh, I’ve done that*, stories that readers might recognize and have not realized they’d done themselves.

This venture has been both difficult and a rewarding, I’m pleased with what I’ve produced, and I’m looking forward to my next book. I’d like to thank all of the people I work with, or have worked with over the years, who’ve provided encouragement, quotes for my book, and the inspiration from which I based some of the stories used to teach these important lessons.

One valuable lesson I learned throughout this venture: If you are thinking about doing something big in life, no matter what it is, I advise you to squelch the naysayers, ignore the obstructionists, pop the negative thought-bubbles that float into your mind, and simply do it! Life’s too short for anything else.

## Seatbelts, Seatbelts, Seatbelts

By Officer John Abraham, SPOG Sergeant-at-Arms, SPD Safety Coordinator

By now you all have ready the SPD Directive dated 03-09-2007: “Revision Procedures & Tactics Publication #021 Vehicle Operation Tips Seat Belt Policy.”

In a nutshell, it states that in 2005, 155 officers were killed in the line of duty and 63 of those lost their lives in traffic-related incidents. That equates to 41% of the total deaths for that year. In 2006 53 % of officers killed in the line of duty died in traffic related incidents. Historically, automobile collisions have always been the second leading cause of officer fatalities. However, in both 2004 and 2005, the number of traffic related deaths was greater than the number of deaths by gunshot. It is a proven fact that the use of seat belts is an effective method to prevent deaths and injuries in collisions.

Why wear a seat belt. All of our patrol cars have air bags. Did you know that an airbag deploys at about 200 mile an hour? If you are not wearing your seat belt and you get into a collision that deploys the air bag you have just increased your impact speed with the air bag by 100 MPH. That is a 300 MPH impact with your face, chest and upper body. In that crash, you will probably have a broken nose, extensive facial injuries and a massive head injury. Without your seat belt on, the air bag will lift your upper body up causing your head to impact the upper windshield. You have just been punched in the face by Mohammed Ali and now the Grim Reaper is knocking on the top of your head! So that aside, what is happening to you??? You are bouncing around in the crashed vehicle like a ping-pong ball!!!! Your seat belt bruise, had you been wearing one, is now a fractured face, a fractured skull, multiple broken bones, internal injuries and possibly death!!!! Am I making mp point?

This profession is tough enough without you taking additional risks by

not wearing your seat belt!!!! And don’t give me this “ But I have to have my seat belt off so I can react quickly to any incident” I have been in law enforcement for almost 30 years and I have always been able to get my belt off in time to handle an emergency. (Don’t think, because I ride motors that I don’t know what I’m talking about. I was a deputy sheriff before coming to Seattle and I still work off duty) There are provisions in the directive that if a dangerous tactical situation is perceived or anticipated that you can remove your seat belt. Common sense!!!!!! You all have it, so use it to protect yourself!!!!

I have been told by more than one of you “but we are exempt from wearing seat belts while driving a police vehicle!” Not true! There is nothing in the WAC or in any other law enforcement codebook that says “we are exempt”. It was discussed many years ago but nothing was ever done with it. Also, if you don’t wear your seat belt how is it that you give John Q. Public tickets for not wearing theirs? I had a FTO many years ago, L.A.Barkley (God Rest his soul), who told me that I am held to a higher standard as a police officer. He asked me “ How can you or I write a citizen a ticket for a violation if we committee the same infraction?” That has always stayed with me.

There have been three very serious crashes in the last year and officers have been seriously injured as a result of not wearing their seat belts. The last crash almost cost us a fantastic officer and a good friend!!! Most of you know who these officers are. If you don’t believe me ask one of them!!!! I am quite sure that they will tell you the total extent of their crashes!!!

Remember, your profession is law enforcement; your job is to go home at the end of your shift!

## Off duty available!!

If you are an Active or Retired Officer, or PEO looking for work, call me!

I have a large amount of day shifts available, with some nights and weekends. I can offer regular shifts/set days (Retired Officers take note!), and I have shifts before or after your Patrol shift for active officers/PEO’s. If you want to work, I need you!

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# Calling all Past Bacon Bowl Participants

By Harriet Benjamin, Bacon Bowl Association President

On a first come, first served basis you may purchase your football bag, jersey and shoulder pads for \$100.00. Contact your Bacon Bowl Board member, or call me at 206-935-7700 or 06-937-8873.

So far 53 law enforcement officers, both make and female have signed up to participate in the Bacon Bowl Fist N’ Cuffs Boxing Challenge at the Emerald Quenn Casino Saturday June 2, 2007.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was accepted on the SPD on October 2, 1961 and retired in January 1995. From the day I came to my first roll call I was in awe of the people around me. You were one of them, though they might not know you, but they took care of you. “I have checked on you kid and you are okay;” my God, what else could you ask for? Where else could you work where a guy could not stand to be in the same room with you, yet all you had to do is key the mike and ask for some help and the same guy would drive 100 MPH putting himself in harms way to bail you out, and then leave still thinking you were a jerk.

I don’t know how I was ever lucky enough to get included in this group, this brotherhood, but I am forever grateful. I cannot name all of you; most are still here, but some are gone. All I want to say his thank you so much for including me, and thank so very much for your friendship.

Bob Neal #2178  
SPD Retired.

Important Date!!!!  
SPOG Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, May 30th  
at 2000 hours  
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# Getting Involved

By Detective Sam Hurst, Juvenile Central

I was recently re-reading the Editor’s Notes from the January *Guardian*. Ron was pontificating on the failure of the state to properly supervise released felons, especially in light of the fact that three of our fellow Washington police officers were killed by suspects who should have been under someone’s watch 24/7. Ron writes a convincing article but then deviates a little. While berating the Governor and accusing her of lying to him he explains her lack of scruples on the “D” behind her name. I quote, “the D’s are enamored with appeasement and capitulation and do not have the intestinal fortitude to be about law and Order ! It’s all about sitting back and trying to find out why Little Johnny did it...” Now as a Democrat I was more than a little irritated by being disparaged and then apparently accused of being indirectly responsible for the recent tragic deaths of our fellow officers! To be honest I do not think that was Ron’s intention but it prompted me to reconsider floating an earlier idea I had; forcing the guild to fund an alternative magazine, one which would provide a platform for non neocons.

In the meanwhile Ron and I crossed paths and had one of our spirited discussions. This led to him suggesting that I could remove my name from *The Guardian* mailing list if I was upset with the editorial decision-making. It led to me sharing with him my idea for an alternative publication. Before parting Ron told me to submit an article, and for that matter have my political brethren also submit articles that would balance the political opinions expressed in the

paper. Now I have to admit that I have no idea who my political brethren are! The only time I meet with like-minded folk is when I’m out having a beer.

However I took up Ron’s offer and mailed him an article that was both opinionated and denouncing. Within minutes I received an e-mail from Ron acknowledging the receipt of the article and the pledge that it would be included in the next issue of *The Guardian*!

Since that day I have spoken with Ron several times and I have also withdrawn the original article I mailed him, it’s now obsolete. Editing *The Guardian* is a demanding task and without our contributions it becomes monumental. It’s easy to read and criticize the content but we can make a difference by getting involved and sharing our thoughts and opinions on matters that are relevant to us all. This improves the readability of the paper and helps our colleague with the task in hand, putting out a quality magazine.

I will be happy to take up Ron’s offer and submit future contributions that he may regard as running contrary to the majority views expressed in *The Guardian* and I feel confident that they will receive fair consideration. I encourage others to take the time and put pen to paper, make Ron’s job easier and let your voice be heard.

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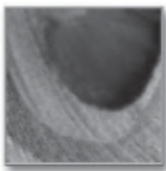
# Welcome New Officers



## April Graduates

Andrew Wilkes, SPD Academy Instructor John Knight,  
Ian Walsh, Brandon Caille

level III medisp a



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## Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of May!



### 35 Years of Service

Sergeant Diane Newsom, North Precinct

### 20 years of Service

Officer Dave Larrabee, West Precinct  
Officer John Abraham, Motors

### 15 years of Service

Sergeant Bryan Grenon, East Precinct  
Detective Pete Madison, B/T East  
Detective James Danielson, CSI  
Officer George Hissung, West Precinct  
Officer Nick Carter, South Precinct

### 10 years of Service

Officer Matt Bradrick, West Precinct  
Officer Ted Cablayan, North Precinct  
Officer Gretchen Hughes, North Precinct  
Officer Rich Peterson, WSCJTC

### 5 years of Service

Officer Steve Bale, East Precinct  
Officer Kevin Runolfson, North Precinct

## The SPOG Member Workstation IS up and running

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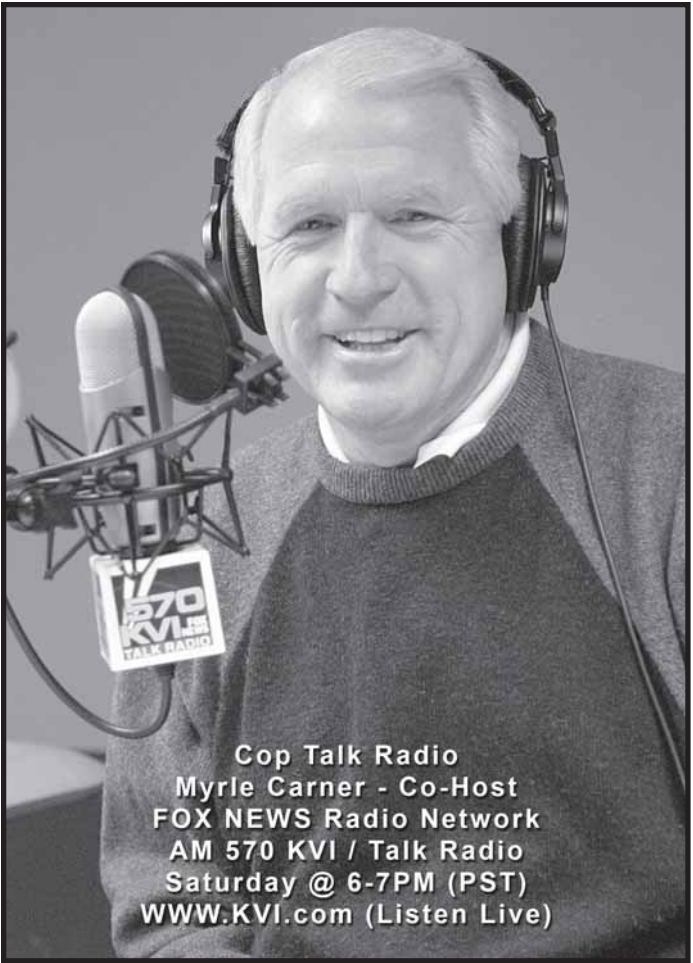
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Don't forget to visit the IAWP Booth on the concourse at the Storm game to sign up for  
the Inaugural Run with Cops 5K run on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
For more information log onto [www.runwithcops.com](http://www.runwithcops.com)

Specialty reduced tickets. Pay No Service Charge. Orders must be received 14 days prior to the date of the game. Orders received more than 14 days prior to the game date will be mailed to the above address; less than 14 days will be left at Will Call. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. No exchanges or refunds. Tickets and premium items are subject to availability. If there are no tickets remaining, the Storm reserve the right to refund payment in full.

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# Retired News

By Mike Germann

### New Retirements

No new retirements to report, right now. There will be a couple coming up in the next few months.

#### Seattle Police Pension Board Nominations to Open

Pursuant to R.C.W. 41.20.010, written notice is hereby given, via this announcement, that the nominating period is open from May 7, 2007 through May 29, 2007 for one member elected Trustee position on the Seattle Police Pension Board, as follows:

A Trustee position of the Seattle Police Relief and Pension Fund (Seattle Police Pension Board/Seattle Police LEOFF I Disability Board), from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010.

The incumbent is Seattle Police Pension Board Trustee Tom Grabicki, who is a 20 year police pension board veteran. He has informed the Executive Secretary of the Board that he intends to file for reelection to his current seat on the Seattle Police Pension Board.

Only LEOFF I or pre-LEOFF, active duty or retired, sworn members of the Seattle Police Department and the Seattle Police Relief and Pension Fund are eligible for nomination and election to this position on the Seattle Police Pension Board. Candidates must be willing and able to perform sometimes complex confidential and fiduciary statutory duties, including attendance and participation in at least one business meeting each month and such other tasks as the Chair and Board of Trustees may require. NO COMPENSATION IS AUTHORIZED for serving on the Seattle Police Pension Board.

Eligible candidates who wish to file for nomination and stand for election to the Seattle Police Pension Board may obtain a nomination form by contacting the Seattle Police Pension Board’s Executive Secretary Mike Gemann at the Seattle Police Pension Office by:

- \* telephone at (206) 386-1289
- \* fax at (206) 386-9075
- \* e-mail at michael.germann@seattle.gov

or, during normal business hours, at the Seattle Police Pension Office, PO Box 94729, 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1862, Seattle, WA 98124-4729, throughout the nominating period.

All completed and properly endorsed (not less than five members of the system) nomination forms must be physically filed with (returned to) the Seattle Police Pension Office no later than the close of business on Tuesday, May 29, 2007, in order to be valid.

The actual election will be held during the month of June 2007 on a date to be fixed jointly by the Chair and Board of Trustees of the Seattle Police Relief and Pension Fund (Seattle Police Pension Board) and the Chief of Police of the Seattle Police Department, or his designees. The date/time/ location of the election will be published at the end of May 2007.

Any questions may be addressed to the Seattle Police Pension Board’s Executive Secretary Mike Germann at the Seattle Police Pension Office, telephone (206) 386-1289.

### “SHOW ME THE MONEY”

For all of you S.P.M.A. retirees entitled to and maybe receiving Seattle Police Pension Fund Escalator pension benefits, mark your calendar for June 1, 2007. This is the date your Seattle Police Pension Office is going to make you current on your Escalator Seattle Police Pension benefits, dating from January 28, 2005. That’s a year and five months of retro pension payments, for those so entitled, plus the current 2007 monthly rate.

Still, there’s no ordinance authorizing any of this, as of April 6, 2007, but we have confidence that the S.P.M.A. President, Captain Dan Oliver, is pushing this matter along in the legislative process that will eventually lead to a new Seattle City Ordinance, which is the lawful authorization to pay the money owed to many of you.

Again, “don’t try to calculate this at home.” These calculations are complex when you’re interfacing COLA’s and Escalator pension entitlements over several years. Also, please don’t call about your individual pension entitlement until after June 1, 2007. We’re pretty busy here in your Seattle Police Pension Office getting it all together to pay you, if you’re so entitled.

Remember, no two retirees/lawful beneficiaries are exactly the same in the Seattle Police Pension Fund. We’ll be happy to answer your questions, after June 1, 2007, about your pension entitlement, but not anybody else’s. Last, but not least, none of the above information, any way, shape or form, applies at all to S.P.O.G. retirees/lawful beneficiaries. That contract is still at the bargaining table and I must emphasize PATIENCE. We are not encouraged at all about the pace (or lack of it) of negotiations between the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild and the City of Seattle. More later.

### JOHN PATRICK SULLIVAN’S NOTEBOOK

Newsworthy notes on our friends....  
Carl Sandbeck is still hospitalized in Tucson. Don Cameron is also down south in Green Valley. He is a little “under the weather” and may be returning north to Seattle within a couple weeks. Other news from Arizona – Ken Baggen and Neil Hinton have taken over the local bowling scene, consistently bowling in the high 600’s. Makes one wonder if there is a senior PBA Tour.

Pat and Joan Munter have returned to Seattle area after all their work coordinating the “Ol’ Blue Clan” reunion which was a big success. Photos from the event and the following golf scramble are in the Call Box and online at <http://rspoa.homestead.com..> Pat has some health setbacks right now but we are looking for a complete recovery.

Nick Bulpin is still involved with the RSPOA and working at the Harbour Pointe Golf Club – you guessed it, Nick’s the bar manager and does a great job. Terri MacMillan-Crist is still with Mike and living on Camano Island. Dick Hutchison had recent esophageal cancer surgery and appears to be doing great, glad to hear that.

Howard Segar is doing fine and living in Brinnon on the Olympic Peninsula, that’s where Ron Copeland was living until he recently moved to Oregon. I saw Harry Schneider, Neil Moloney, Roy Skagen and Clay Bean at a secret location in the north end. Stan Schumacher is living north of Bothell and doing well these days. Tyrone Sheffey is hanging around in Renton. Bill Shears (remember him from

Traffic?) is still in La Conner as is Jon Peterson. Carl O’Leary has been snowbirding in the Phoenix area.

John Nordlund is just being himself. He sometimes goes to Claire’s in Lake City with the likes of Dick Rovig, still working Mike Severance, Bruce Smith and Dave Hortin.

Remember Dick Johnson? He’s very involved with his church and family out in Kirkland. Tyrone Kane is gearing up for the golf season and could use some lessons from Chaz McClure. George Patrick Johnson is out in Edmonds while the two Jim Johnsons are somewhere between Mesa, AZ and Bothell – you figure that one out. Someone says Larry Johnson is somewhere in West Seattle. Oh, and Larry Jones is a civilian employee in the Property Room of SPD (how about that?).

The Jorve boys, Dennis and Jerry, have been down in the Phoenix area and will soon be back here for the spring and summer seasons. Chet Johnson and family are down in the desert but will be back in Edmonds soon. Now get this! Chet just celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ralph Zottman is already at 99 and going for 100 in December. Ken Thomas will be 94 in June, he’s just a youngster. Ned Richmond just turned 96 and that’s all for the elder statesmen for this issue, more later.

Haven’t seen Riley Brice lately but he’s okay. Ivory Brooks has moved to Texas. Mike Broyles is throwing rocks into the Colorado River. John (Greyhound) Boren is over in Port Townsend along with other great guys. Tom Caldwell is still in Everett. John and Marsha Camp are doing well in Saddlebrooke, AZ. Did Jack Coddington actually retire? Haven’t heard from Dan Fordice but we do hear from his buddy, Dale Harper, who is fighting cancer.

Oh, yeah, Ed Fjerstad is over in little ol’ Sequim. John Gray is down in Yelm and hasn’t been to Seattle for awhile. Ray Gonty has been snowbirding in Mesa, AZ. Vic Heins is still in Poulsbo and about the best photographer in the world. Larry Harvey is also in Poulsbo when he isn’t heading the Mariners security. Larry Hart just moved back to Bellevue from Montana. Reminds us, Jerry Wabschall is still in Montana.

So, where is Joe Higgins? He should call the pension office and say hi. Hello to Helen Hendrickson. Larry Miller is still around, as is Fred Kilmer, Dick Herron and Rob McCurley. Fred Krohn will see us at the next annual banquet. He’ll bring his beautiful family. We hear that Emmett Kelsie is still out in Rainier Valley. Pat Kelly is traveling somewhere in the U.S.A.

Jon Kristof just had a big party, nice time. Don Marquart is still out in West Seattle. Oh, and Ray Lambe is in Port Hadlock. Don Hillard is living in Kirkland and doing a security gig. LaVelle Thresher has had some medical concerns but seems to be better now. Tim Hubbard got remarried and is living in Kent. Dennis and Vinette Tichi are as happy as ever.

#### RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION Minutes of the Monthly Meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> 2006

Secretary/Treasurer, Nick Bulpin called the meeting to order at noon in the dining room of the Four Seas restaurant March 8<sup>th</sup> 2006. Mike Tando led in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Roll call of officers was conducted with Ed Caalim, LaVelle Thresher, Dave Grayson and John Sullivan being excused. Present were Bulpin, Mike Slessman, Paul Peterson, Ted Fonis and Dick Rovig who was then presented with a Trustee Badge as a new member of the Executive Board.

Don Kelsey gave a report on HB 2688 that is currently being discussed on the floor of the house in Olympia. He read an e-mail from Mark Curtis he had received at 10:30 PM Tuesday that named sponsors of the bill which was packaged with other bills and went on to say the session was due to end this afternoon and the bill would die if not voted on today.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report with a motion to accept the report and to pay the current bills being made by Ted Fonis and seconded by Dick Rovig, passed unanimously. Minutes of the February meeting were distributed and a motion was made by John Nordlund to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mike Slessman and passed unanimously.

Bulpin stated a report from the Audit Committee would be submitted by the April meeting. The Audit Committee is Mike Slessman, Chair, with Ted Fonis and Nick Bulpin. Bulpin took the opportunity to report the bottom line of the financial status is basically the same as 5 years ago. He reminded everyone the dues are still \$1.00 per month and we have gone from less than 20 persons attending the meetings to an average of over 50 per month. The meeting costs are augmented from the RSPOA treasury. He then thanked the Four Seasons staff for their outstanding service and hospitality which has been instrumental in the increased attendance.

Pat Munter of the By-laws committee stated a report should also be prepared for the April meeting which would only have some minor house-keeping changes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 with a motion from Dick Rovig, but not before the 38 persons in attendance all rose and sang happy birthday to Clara Dempsey, then all enjoyed another delightful lunch. Nick Bulpin interrupted lunch to report Dave Grayson called from Olympia to state the Bills in the Legislature are not dead and in fact are on the floor for the third reading and will probably be decided on tomorrow the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted, Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer

RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
April 11<sup>th</sup> 2007

With the absence of President Ed Caalim and LaVelle Thresher, Trustee, Dick Rovig called the meeting to order at noon in the dining

room of the Four Seas Restaurant at 8<sup>th</sup> S. and King Street April 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 Rovig welcomed Tony Enders as a newly life-paid member and asked him to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of officers showed Ed Caalim and LaVelle Thresher excused, with Nick Bulpin, Mike Slessman, John Sullivan, Paul Peterson, Pat Munter, Dick Rovig, Jerry Taylor, Dave Grayson, and Ted Fonis present.

Rovig indicated the minutes of the March meeting have been distributed and noted a correction that minor surgery for Ernie Randall was done some time back. The minutes, as amended, were then approved with a motion made by John Nordlund, seconded by John Guich and passed unanimously.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and a motion was made to accept the report and pay the bills being made by Ted Fonis, seconded by Jerry Taylor and passed.

Rovig welcomed Dan Oliver and Eric Santo as guests. They are President and Vice-president of the Seattle Police Management Association. Oliver gave a brief report on recent settlement of contract negotiations approved by the City Council which provides for a 5% wage increase for each of years 2006, 07, 08. Jerry Taylor provided a toast to the efforts of Dan Oliver and the Association.

Dick Rovig stated with regret and reluctance that Ed Caalim and the RSPOA Board have accepted the retirement of Dave Grayson and Ted Fonis. Both have served as RSPOA Presidents for multiple terms and have been serving on the board for over 20 years each. The audience then had a standing ovation for their many efforts.

Mike Slessman reported the Audit Committee consisting of Mike as chairman, Jerry Taylor and Treasurer, Nick Bulpin completed an Audit of RSPOA finances as provided by the by-laws. Expenditures and funds were well documented and within the by-laws. The committee finds the RSPOA financial picture is healthy and solvent. Grayson made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Fonis and passed unanimously.

Pat Munter gave a brief report of the Old Blue Clan get-together in Arizona March 17<sup>th</sup>. He stated after three years of organization he and his wife Joan will turn the reigns over to Jim Johnson and Ken Baggen for the March 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 Arizona meeting. Howard Monta, President of RAP, stated he annual Christmas dance will be replaced with a luncheon buffet to be held December 15<sup>th</sup> at Glen AcresGolf Club 12/15/07. There being no further business Wendell DeBoer moved for adjournment at 12:20 PM

# Last Ring

Mercifully, there have not been any new deaths of our retirees/lawful beneficiaries reported to the Seattle Police Pension Office since the middle of February 2007. (Bear in mind this article is written on April 5, 2007.)

To say we are grateful there are no new deaths to report is an understatement.

## May 2007 Retirees' Birthdays

Garry F. Arnold, Dix W. Baker, Ronald J. Beavert, Donald E. Berg, Toby Berger (George F.), Gary W. Bille, Robert E. Bruce, Erling I. Butte-Dahl, Richard A. Chapman, Joseph M. Cordas, William L. Cox, Nathaniel W. Crawford, Thomas J. Dittmar, Drew R. Dowd, Victor I. Enszt, Jerry A. Fernandez, Judith Fernandez (Joseph P), Thomas K. Fitzgerald, John L. Flotten, Moses C. Gallow, Geoffrey H. W. Getchman, Paul G. Giersch, Rowland D. Goff, Phyllis R. Goodwin (Warren), Norman K. Gow, Earlene Grant (Ray), Martin A. Grzech, Abbott O. Harris, Davis N. Hart, E. Denise Healey (Jack), James J. Hill, John C. Hoberg, Duane Hoekstra, Roy M. Hull, Mary Ellen Humphrey (Alvin L., Herbert V. Johnson, Wallace P. Johnson, Charles A. Kearney, Margaret J. Kimsey (Herbert), Gary A. Kindle, Richard M. King, Ronald T. Kuehner, Jennie Ladkey (Frank), Frank R. Lee, John S. Leitch, Paul A. Lewis, Rosemary Long (Wallace R.), James D. Luedeke, James E. Lundin, Vernon E. Mackie, Janiece Mccready (Larry G.), Darlene L. McIntyre (Allan N.), Evelyn Meece (Warren), Donald H. Meyers, Robert J. Morgan, Richard K. Murphy, Mary S. Nanthrup (Earle E.), Barry A. Newsom, Wanda L. O'Neil Netuschil (Virgil M.), Gunnar Otness, Lois Pedersen (Harold), Jon L. Peterson, Paul D. Peterson, Mary M. Petorak (Andy), John R. Pirak, Lorraine M. Ramon (Frank), Richard W. Ramon, John T. Reynolds, Jack E. Rinker, Howard F. Segar, Noreen T. Skagen, Russell E. Stallman, Michael J. Tando, Elizabeth Taylor (Donald), Alex A. Thole, Vernon Thomas, Beryl A. Thompson, Rena Thoresen (Walter P.), Randy Buck Tibbs, Timothy A. Tieken, Karen Torvik, Laurie Vancil-Kimber (Richard), Robert C. Vanderway, Douglas E. Vaughn, Patricia M. Verlinda (Albert J.), Margot W. Wade-Terry, Lillian M. Wahl (Richard S.), William R. Wald, Lorraine J. Watson (Richard), Phillip L. Williams, James G. Wilson, Eve-Lynn Yerabek (Theodore W.)

## Verizon Wireless Notice

### Important Information for Members with Verizon Wireless Service

Some SPOG members and retired officers with Verizon Wireless service may have received a notification from Verizon Wireless about the steps you need to take to update the billing responsibility on your account.

Those who received notification have the name of the Seattle Police Officers Guild as the billing responsible party listed on their account rather than their own name. The Guild is in the process of working with Verizon Wireless to migrate all accounts who list the Guild as the responsible party. Because of this, you will need to establish a private account in your own name in order to keep your service.

**If you have received a letter from Verizon Wireless you must take action regarding your account immediately and no later than May 23, 2007 in order to avoid service disconnection.**

To take action, complete the Transfer of Billing Responsibility Form that was included with your notification from Verizon Wireless. Or for more details or to complete this process over the phone call 1-800-922-0204.

**You will be receiving notification from the Guild within 6-8 weeks after migrating your service that will address the balance of any deposits that you may or may not hold with the Guild. Please do not call the Guild office directly regarding your deposit status. If you have any questions, please e-mail the Guild at [cellphone@seattlepoliceguild.org](mailto:cellphone@seattlepoliceguild.org).**

All *Guardian* submissions are due  
by May 15, 2007  
to [spogguardian@yahoo.com](mailto:spogguardian@yahoo.com)



# Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, Pawn Shop



In an April 17<sup>th</sup> *Seattle Times* article regarding the NAACP's dissatisfaction with a recent arrest, the following sentence appears in paragraph four, "The Department will not comment on open (OPA-IS) cases in order to maintain the integrity of the investigations." Apparently this must be a newly adopted policy, as someone was quick to release information about an open OPA investigation last month, prompting the 36-point font headline, "2 Officers Investigated For Belltown Drug Bust," in the *P-I*, which has permanently damaged the reputations of two hard working officers. As you can see from the front page of this edition, both officers were ultimately cleared of any misconduct as it pertained to the arrest that was made, and the Chief took extraordinary steps to announce the finding in a press conference. The Chief is to be commended for fast tracking this investigation, and using his bully pulpit to announce that the blown out of proportion allegations were FALSE!

The question remains; who is ultimately responsible for releasing the information about this open case, and will they be held accountable? Rumor has it the information was released to various prosecutors' offices for "moral and ethical reasons." What is moral and ethical about sabotaging the character and reputation of two officers who did nothing wrong in the arrest of a street dope dealer, who through their persistent work ethic were formerly named precinct Officers of the Year? Once again, there is nothing professional or accountable about how this situation was handled.

I certainly hope when the newly appointed OPA Director takes the helm, some significant steps are implemented to ensure once and for all that all OPA-IS investigations are conducted in a fair and impartial manner, and that no one is commenting in the media as someone "close to the investigation" about the status of an open case. Maybe she will bring a broom with her on day one and clean house. (And no, I am not talking about dues paying SPOG members).

Does the King County Prosecutor's Office have enough fortitude to re-charge the wheel chair bound dope dealer for VUCSA, and will someone forward a case to the City Attorney's Office for filing a bogus OPA complaint? Since the OPA falls all over itself to investigate any and all complaints, it is incumbent upon them to send a strong message that filing a false complaint comes with a price. Shall I hold my breath?

Until next month, be safe out there and cover your butts! Feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions at [spogguardian@yahoo.com](mailto:spogguardian@yahoo.com). "It is an affront to treat falsehood with complaisance."- Thomas Paine.

## Calendar of Events

**Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation Ceremony**  
Friday, May 4th at 1300 hours

**Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office**  
Wednesday, May 9th at 1300 hours

**Memorial Day (SPOG Office Closed)**  
Monday, May 28th

**Seattle Police Officers' Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office**  
Wednesday, April 25th at 2000 hours

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